

September 12, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director of Current Intelligence

SUBJECT : SNIE on Angola

25X1 1. [ ] has suggested that CIA draft a National Intelligence Estimate on Angola. We believe [ ] concern with the situation in Angola is well-founded but suggest that the interests of the intelligence community would more appropriately be served by a SNIE, which we would hope to present to USIB during the first week in October. 25X1

2. With less than two months to go before independence, the range of options available to the Portuguese and the Angolan liberation groups is much narrower than it was several months ago. Consequently, the possible political alternatives for the territory are more limited in number and they can be spelled out with greater precision than was the case at the time NSSM-224 was prepared last summer.

3. Perhaps the major reason for producing a SNIE, however, is the very serious unsettling effect President Mobutu's recent introduction of Zairian troops into Angola is likely to have on the territory. Moreover, Mobutu's involvement carries serious domestic political implications for him and poses serious policy problems for the US because of our long and close association with his government.

4. The Angolan situation is clearly a vital part of NIE 70-1-75, currently underway, on southern Africa. Priority treatment of Angola in a SNIE will allow us to look more closely at the other important issues of the region in the NIE. For instance, with the SNIE giving a clear picture of the relationship of Angola to the rest of southern Africa, we can then shift the emphasis of the NIE to Rhodesia from the present rather diffuse focus on Angola/Rhodesia.

5. Because of the work load a SNIE places on Africa Branch, we would propose postponing the NIE, shooting for a deadline of around December 1, rather than the September-October time frame. ~~Originally suggested in [ ] request~~

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Acting Chief, Middle East Africa Division

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